(ग) अल्मोड़ा दूरसंचार डिवीजन में स्विचिंग और संचारण उपस्कर के उन्नयन हेतु लगातार मॉनिटरिंग की जा रही है तथा योजना बनाई गई है।

Criteria for Upgrading of Telecom System

3341. SHRI K.M. SAIFULLAH:
DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria followed in upgrading the telecom system in the country; and

(b) the reasons for choosing Hassan for this purpose on a priority basis?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VERMA): (a) Upgradation with expansion of telephone system is based on demand for telephone connections and waiting list. Upgradation is also done for obsolescence of existing technology and life expiry of existing system.

(b) The above criteria is applicable for all the places in the country including Hassan.

Alternate Technology for Rural Telecommunication

3342. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have come to the conclusion that Multi Access Rural Radio System (MARR) is not the right technology to provide village public telephones;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the details of alternate technology proposed to be adopted for rural telecommunications?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VERMA): (a) At present, the Multi Access Rural Radio Technology is still suitable for providing VPYs in rural areas.

(b) and (c) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

Irregularities Committed in the Department of Posts

3343. SHRI O.P. KOHLI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Department of Posts has come under criticism of the Comptroller and Auditor-General of India for the massive irregularities in the purchase of equipments like the telecommunications; and

(b) if so, the details of the irregularities that were committed in the purchase of equipments and the action taken by Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VERMA): (a) and (b) The Department has received the report of the CAG during the year 1997 in which the CAG has made certain observations in the review conducted on the satellite Money Order Service and Multipurpose counter machines. The report is under examination for furnishing action taken notes.

"Telephone Bill Ne Pak Agenton Kee Sakriyata Kee Pol Kholee"

3344. SHRI BHAGABAN MAJHI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Government have been drawn to the newsitem captioned "Telephone Bill ne pak agenton kee sakriyata kee pol kholee" which appeared in the Rashtriya Sahara dated the 28th March, 1997;

(b) if so, the facts in this regard;

(c) the reaction of Government; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to check and stop these activities?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VERMA): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) to (d) Information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

Increasing the Number of Postmen in Trans-Yamuna Area of Delhi

3345. SHRI O.P. KOHLI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the newsitem captioned "Yamunapar Mein daak vitran vyavastha charmarai: 35 lakh logon ke liye 250 postman" which appeared in Dainik Jagaran dated 5th March, 1997;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the action taken by Government to increase the number of postmen in trans-Yamuna area; and

(d) the action taken to open more post offices, telegraph offices and telephone exchanges in trans-Yamuna keeping the population in mind?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VERMA): (a) Yes, Sir, There are 257 Postmen and 6 EDDA catering to the delivery needs of this area.

(b) These postmen are working in 10 delivery offices and covering 111 double & 30 single beats in the area.

(c) The strength of establishment is reviewed periodically. Based on the latest such review in 1996-97, a justification of 12 additional posts of Postmen as per departmental norms was established. In order to make good this 4.8% shortage of manpower, efforts are being made to augment the strength of Postmen by redeploying Postmen staff found surplus in other areas.

(d) The Department has recently opened one more Post Office at Jafrabad in trans-Yamuna area on 29.3.97 raising their number to 62 including 1 H.O. in this area. At present there are 4 telegraph offices functioning in the area namely, Krishna Nagar, Shahdara, Guru Teg Bahadur Hospital and Kalyanpuri Telegraph Offices providing Booking and Delivery of Telegrams, STD/ISD, P.C.O., FAX and acceptance of telephone bills facilities.

The strengthing of postal, telegraph and telephone network is a continuous process based on departmental norms keeping in view demand, need and feasibility.

Waiting List of Telephone in Hyderabad

3346. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that waiting list for phones has progressively increased in the areas under Hyderabad Telecom;

(b) if so, the number of persons on waiting list in different categories in Hyderabad Telecom as on date; and

(c) the schedule for clearing this waiting list in Hyderabad Telecom Circle?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VERMA): (a) Yes Sir, Waiting list has increased progressively over the last four years.

(b) As on 31.3.1997, the category wise waiting list is as follows:

OYT	**NIL**
N-OYT	41211

(c) It is planned to clear the existing waiting list by March 1998, subject to availablity of resources.

Upgradation of Post Offices in Tamil Nadu

3347. SHRI N. THALAVAI SUNDARAM: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria fixed by Government to upgrade post offices;